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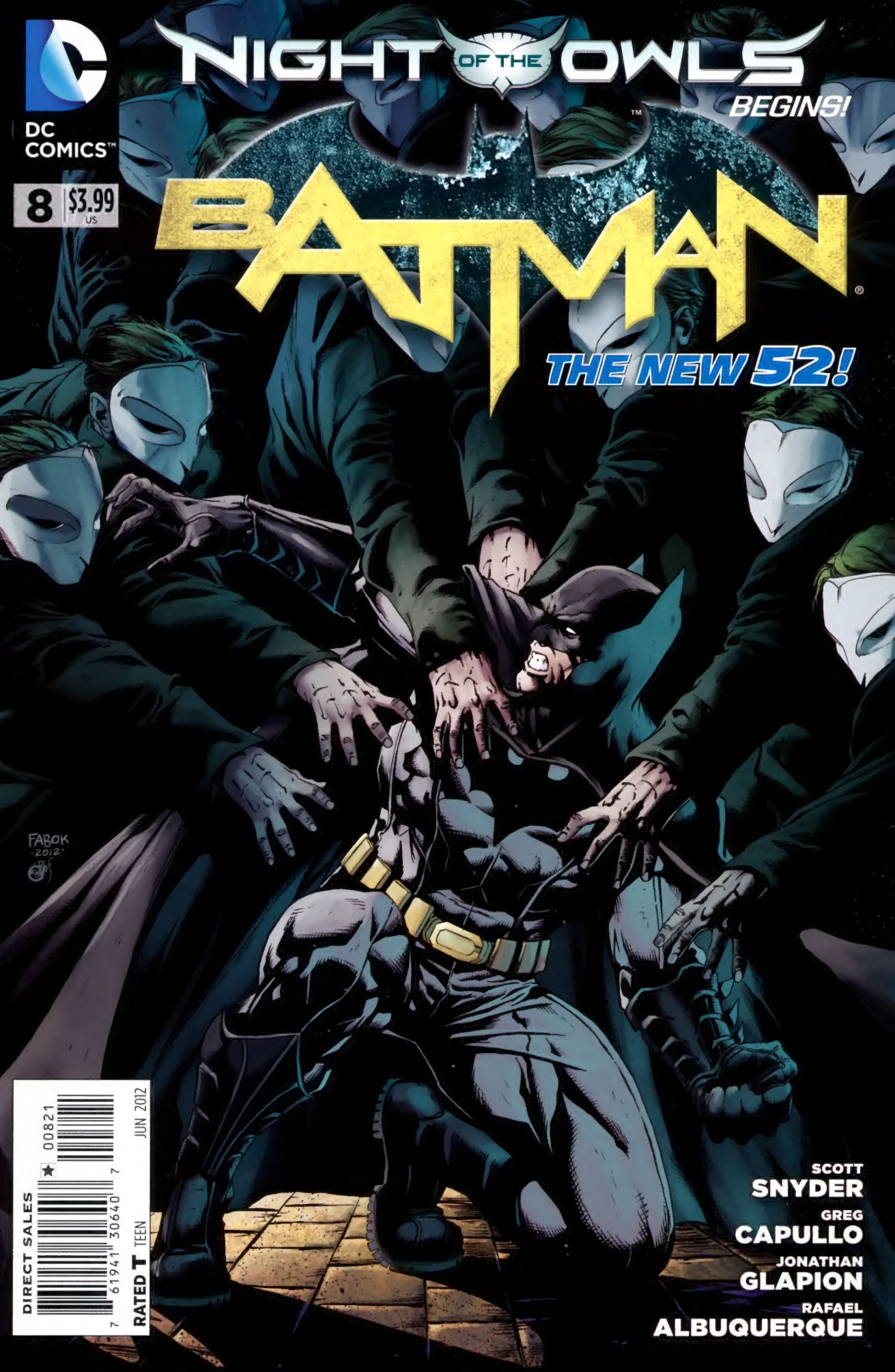
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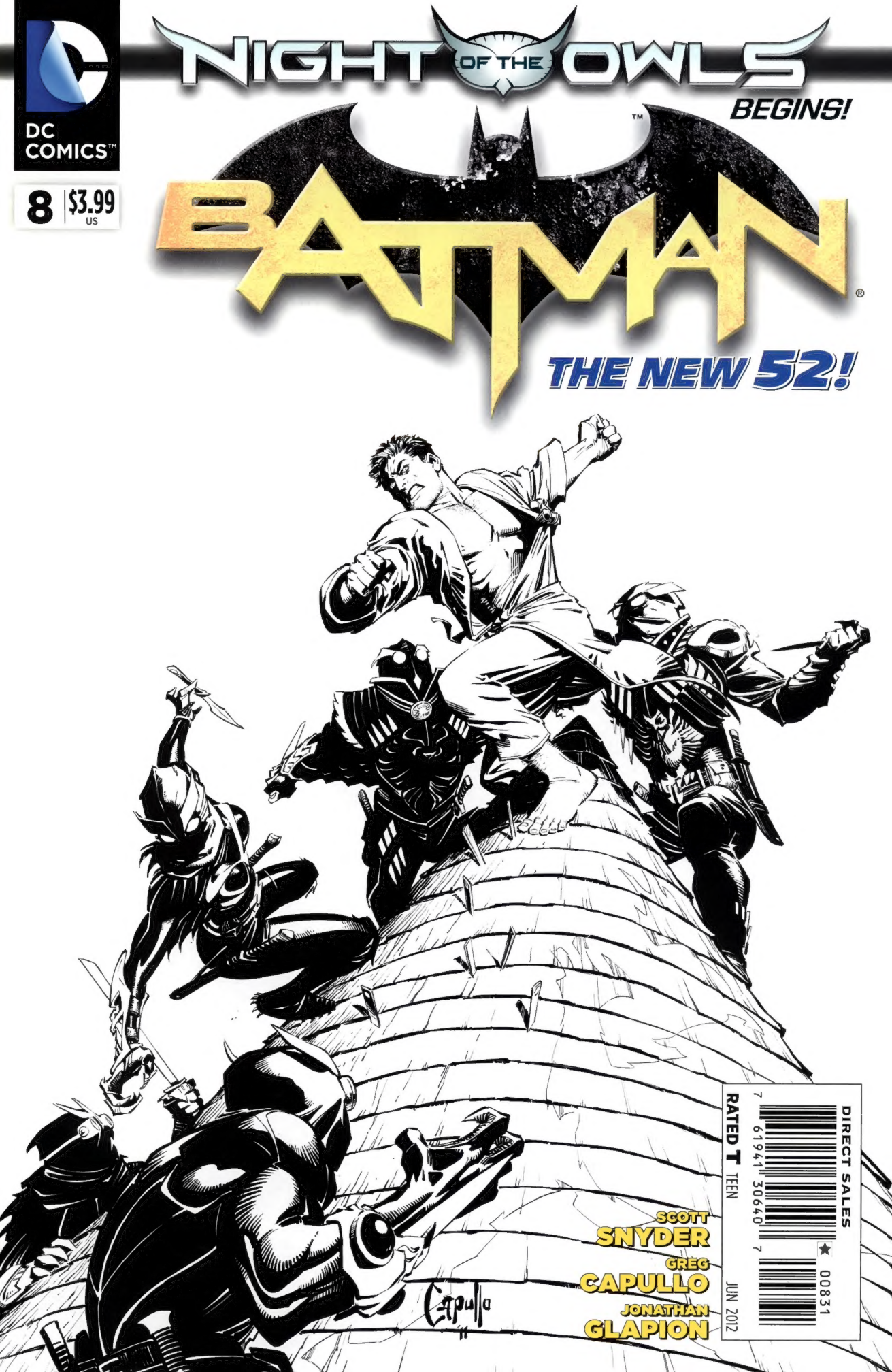
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NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 7:01 PM...
I've always believed the best way to know the city is to stay close to the ground.
To feel the cracks in the sidewalk under your shoes.
The strange bright silence of the park under snow.
The hissing rain of sparks that comes down when the elevated train passes overhead on Third Avenue.
The late night ticking of traffic lights.
It's only been in the last few weeks that I've come to understand how **wrong** I've been.
Because I know now that you can spend your whole life learning Gotham from deep inside...

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in

ATTACK ON WAYNE MANOR

SCOTT SNYDER
writer

GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION
inker

FCO PLASCENCIA
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MIKE MARTS
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JASON FABOK and PETER STEIGERWALD
variant cover

CAPULLO and FCO PLASCENCIA
cover

Batman created by BOB KANE

SHUT IT OFF, ALFRED.
IT'S HURTING MY EYES.
IF YOU WISH, SIR. BUT THEY SAY LOW-LEVEL LASER ILLUMINATION CAN BE THERAPEUTIC FOR EYE INJURIES.
YOU WANT A METAPHOR, OLD FRIEND, HERE'S ONE...

...I'M A MAN STANDING OVER A *TOY CITY* HE MADE HIMSELF WHILE THE REAL ONE, THE ONE THAT *MATTERS,* OPERATES BEHIND HIS BACK.

I WASN'T TRADING IN WORDPLAY, SIR. YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN THE DARK FOR HOURS.
AND YOU HAVE INFLAMMATION IN MOST OF THE TISSUE AROUND YOUR EYES AND A CONJUNCTIVAL HEMORRHAGE IN--

I'VE BEEN A FOOL, ALFRED.
AN ARROGANT *FOOL.*

PERHAPS. BUT THEN YOU COME FROM A *LONG LINE* OF SUCH MEN, SIR. AND THAT CITY ACROSS THE BAY IS A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF THEIR ARROGANT FOOLISHNESS.

AND IF YOU--
THUMP
SIR--
I HEARD IT. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO GET IN.
GET TO THE CAVE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE INTRUDER.
BUT SIR, I CAN--
I HAVE THE EARPIECE AND LENS.
HELP ME FROM DOWN THERE.
"GO!"

SIR, I'M IN POSITION.

I'M PICKING UP INTRUDER SIGNALS ALL AROUND THE MANOR, BUT THEY'RE NOT MAKING SENSE...

...THE PULSES ARE...

...OH, NO...

MASTER BRUCE, YOU MUST GET DOWN HERE!

MASTER BRUCE!

CRASH

BRUCE WAYNE...

...THE COURT OF OWLS...

...HAS SENTENCED YOU TO--

CRACK

YEAH, I GOT IT THE FIRST TIME!

HA, HA! SEEMS YOU HAVE SOME MOVES, MR. WAYNE!
WELL SO DO I!
MAYBE SO. BUT YOURS...
...WENT OUT OF STYLE TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO!
ALFRED.
ALFRED, I NEED POSITIONS.
ALFRED!

I'M... I'M TRYING, SIR!
BUT THEY'RE ALL AROUND YOU!
YES, I CAN SEE THAT. BUT OTHERS--
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN, SIR! THERE ARE SO MANY OTHERS!
AND THEY'RE GETTING INTO THE HOUSE FROM ALL SIDES!
SIR, YOU NEED HELP! I CAN--
HOO HOO.
ALFRED? ALFRED, ARE YOU THERE?

ALFRED?
DAMN.
WHAK
UNH!

GO AHEAD, BRUCE! TRY TO RUN AWAY!
WE'LL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO!
YOU WON'T.
ARGH!
BROTHERS... I AM PINNED.
NOWHERE LEFT TO GO, BRUCE.

NOWHERE TO RUN...YOU'RE GOING DOWN. NOW.
DEEEET
GOOD CHOICE OF WORDS.
WHAT--
GET HIM! HE'S ESCAPING!
IT'S LOCKED!
WE'LL GET YOU, BRUCE WAYNE!
WE'RE COMING FOR YOU!

Stupid, Bruce. Stupid.
You should have seen this coming.
You should have been watching for it.
Not lost in your own head.
ALFRED!
ALFRED, ARE YOU ALL RI--
WELL, WELL.
SEEMS YOU HAVE A SECRET, BRUCE. DON'T YOU?

CREAK...
HUH?
NO!
CLANG
YOUR LUCKY PENNY, SIR.
HEH. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
QUITE, SIR.
GOOD. NOW LET'S GET SOME ANSWERS.

HOW MANY?
I SAID HOW MANY ARE COMING FOR US?!
ENOUGH. AND NOT JUST FOR YOU...
...BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON.
OR SOONER.
AAAAARRGH! YOU'RE... YOU'RE -KOFF!- BREAKING MY ARM!
CRACK
CORRECT.
NOW LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE!
OH, BRUCE!

"WE'RE COMING FOR YOU.
"YOU CAN'T STOP THE COURT.
"YOU CAN'T HOLD US BACK.
"THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN ANYMORE.
"WE'RE IN THE HEART OF YOUR HOUSE, BRUCE! THE HOUSE OF WAYNE! AND OF BATMAN!"
THE ARMORY, ALFRED! GET INSIDE!
SIR--
QUICKLY!
THAT'S OKAY, BRUCE. WE'LL FIND A WAY IN.
WE ALWAYS DO.

I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT, SIR. THE DOORS WON'T HOLD THEM FOREVER.
TAKE THIS.
IT'S SOME KIND OF MICRODRIVE. IT WAS IN THE TALON'S GAUNTLET.
SEE IF YOU CAN PULL UP ANYTHING--FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING.
AND ALFRED, DROP THE TEMPERATURE IN THE CAVE TO *SUB-ZERO.* FAST AS YOU CAN.
THE REGENERATIVE COMPOUND IN THE TALONS' BLOOD IS *HEAT SENSITIVE.* BRING THEIR CORE BODY TEMPERATURES DOWN LOW ENOUGH AND--
YOU'LL FREEZE THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM. OR AT LEAST SLOW THEM DOWN.
BUT SIR, THAT WILL TAKE *MINUTES.* AND IN THE MEANTIME, THEY'LL *TEAR YOU APART.*
BESIDES, THE TEMPERATURE IN THE CAVE WILL BECOME INHOSPITABLE TO YOU YOURSELF IN A MATTER OF--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, ALFRED.

"I'M SURE I'VE GOT SOMETHING WARM IN HERE."
YOU CAN'T HIDE FOREVER, BRUCE!
THAT'S WHAT WAYNES ALWAYS TRY TO DO, BUT IT'S NO USE.
SO GO ON, LITTLE BRUCE, AND...
...OPEN UP?

GET THE *HELL* OUT OF MY HOUSE.
NEXT: THE WAR FOR GOTHAM BEGINS!

NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 7:32 PM...
LOOK AT THIS, FRIENDS.
BRUCE CAME OUT TO PLAY!
YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO TO BATS, BRUCE? WE EAT THEM WHOLE. BONES AND ALL.
NOT IN THIS CAVE YOU DON'T.
MASTER BRUCE...
...I'VE UPLOADED THE MATERIAL, BUT THE FIREW--
WAIT.

THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT.
WHAT IS IT, ALFRED?
MY GOD...
ALFRED?
IT'S A LIST, SIR.
A LIST OF WHAT?
IT'S A LIST OF TARGETS.
AND... NEARLY EVERY PUBLIC FIGURE IN GOTHAM CITY IS ON IT.

"EVERYONE WHO SHAPES THE CITY."
"THE CITY COMPTROLLER..."
BETTY PARK...

"GOTHAM CITY DEPUTY SHERIFF..."
MICHAEL D. DAVIS...
PLEASE DON'T...

"KANE COUNTY SUPREME COURT JUSTICE..."

JAN SPITZ...

"GOTHAM PUBLIC ADVOCATE..."

JOHN LEE...

"SPEAKER OF THE CITY COUNCIL..."

MIGUEL GUADALUPE...

"THE HEAD OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION..."

BILL KEEP...

"GOTHAM'S COMMISSIONER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS..."

VALERIE VENDERMAN. THE COURT OF OWLS...

...HAS SENTENCED YOU...

...TO DIE.

COMMISSIONER GORDON... MAYOR HADY... THEY'RE GOING TO KILL THEM ALL.
PUT OUT THE CALL, ALFRED.
ALFRED!
I'M HERE, SIR.
PUT THE CALL OUT TO THE FAMILY.
NOW.
YES... YES OF COURSE, SIR.
PUTTING IT OUT NOW.

TONIGHT, THE COURT OF OWLS HAS SENT THEIR ASSASSINS TO KILL NEARLY FORTY PEOPLE ACROSS THE CITY.

...I SEND THIS WITH THE GREATEST URGENCY.

TO ALL THE ALLIES OF THE BAT PRESENTLY IN GOTHAM...

THE COURT'S TARGETS ARE ALL GOTHAM LEADERS. PEOPLE WHO SHAPE THIS CITY.

I HAVE UPLOADED A LIST OF THE TARGETS' NAMES, HERE.

THE COURT'S ASSASSINS, THE "TALONS," ARE ALREADY EN ROUTE TO THEIR TARGETS.

THEY ARE HIGHLY TRAINED KILLERS--

--WITH EXTRAORDINARY REGENERATIVE ABILITIES.

FOR MANY OF THEIR TARGETS, I FEAR IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO--

BANG! BANG!

I WILL KEEP THE--
BANG! BANG!
--KEEP THE LINE TO THE CAVE OPEN AS LONG AS I CAN MANAGE.
BANG! BANG!
COME ON! I'M RIGHT HERE!
BANG! BANG!
WE'RE COMING FOR YOU, TOO, OLD MAN!
GOING TO TEAR THE SKIN OFF YOUR BACK!
GOOD LUCK TO YOU...
NOW! TAKE HIM!

THE CALL

WRITERS SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV
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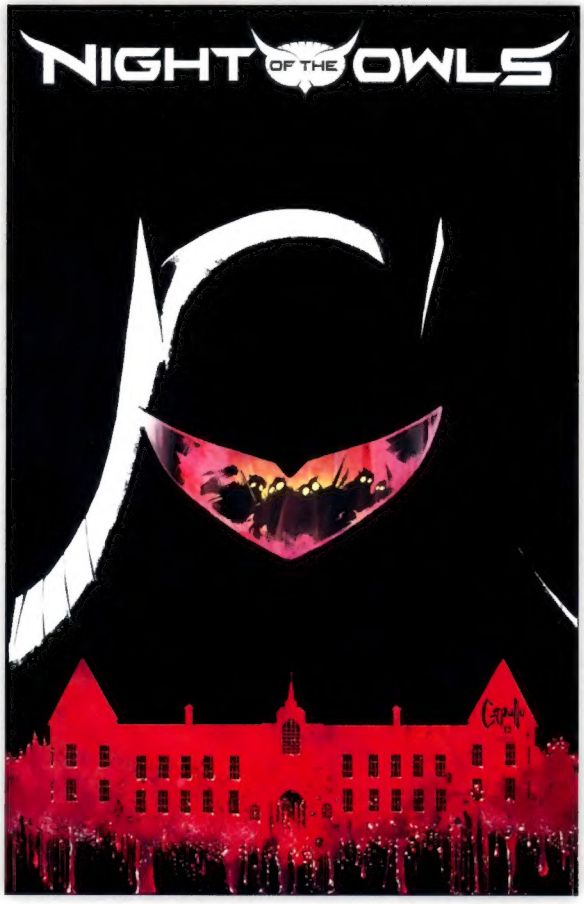
COLORS NATHAN FAIRBAIRN
LETTERS PATRICK BROSSEAU
ASSISTANT EDITOR KATIE KUBERT
EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

TO BUILD WORLDS...

If you've been reading these pages or our blog or any recent interviews with our editors and talent, you've seen the phrase "world building" come up often. These next few months are an exciting phase of **The New 52** because we're starting to really establish how our characters exist in a shared universe. It was crucial to tell stories that explained who each of our characters was, and now we're connecting the dots and showing you what happens when they start interacting with each other.



Batman #9 by Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo

Like everything else with The New 52 we wanted this world building to feel fresh and exciting. You'll see how we achieved that when you read **NIGHT OF THE OWLS, THE CULLING,** the six brand new series we're launching in May **(Earth Two, Worlds' Finest, Batman Inc., Dial H, G.I. Combat and The Ravagers),** or see any number of guest stars over the next few months. All of this was done with the goal of creating a universe for our readers to visit that continues to be unpredictable at every turn.

There's more about our world building coming up, but first we want to let you know that this May is the launch of the first collections of material from The New 52. If there's a series you've been hearing good things about, this is the perfect time to pick up a collection and explore a new corner of our universe. For example, maybe you've been reading Swamp Thing and hear that Animal Man is going to be in an upcoming story (he is!). Well then, you might want to pick up **Animal Man Vol. 1: The Hunt** when it comes out on May 2nd (you do!). As we continue to grow, it's a great thing to have collections of the material that helped us get off to such an unprecedented start. Visit our website, **DCCOMICS.com**, for a full list of The New 52 collections. Please enjoy.

NIGHT OF THE OWLS is the Batman thriller you've been waiting for! The entire Bat-family faces The Court of Owls as the assassins known as **Talon** attack Gotham City with terrifying precision and brutality. Wait, "assassins" ? As in there's more than one Talon? That is indeed the case, but to find out why and what they're up to, you'll have to check out next month's books. We've provided a handy checklist over to the right, so keep that close by at all times!

Batman Annual #1 by Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV & Jason Fabok

On the stands this month (go look!) are the **two prelude issues** to NIGHT OF THE OWLS: **Batman #8** by Scott Snyder & Greg Capullo, and **Nightwing #8** by Kyle Higgins & Eddy Barrows. Batman #8 also features the start of a new backup story ominously titled "Fall of the House of Wayne" that explores the history of the Wayne family, Gotham City and The Court of Owls by Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV & Rafael Albuquerque (American Vampire).

Batman: The Dark Knight #9
By Judd Winick & David Finch

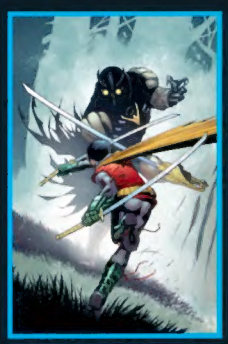
NEXT MONTH: NIGHT OF THE OWLS!

CATWOMAN #9
By Judd Winick & Guillem March.

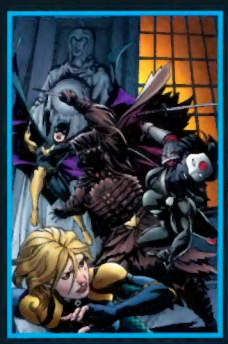
BATWING #9
By Judd Winick & Marcus To.

DETECTIVE COMICS #9
By Tony S. Daniel.

RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS #9
By Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.



BATMAN AND ROBIN #9
By Peter J. Tomasi & Lee Garbett.



BIRDS OF PREY #9
By Duane Swierczynski & Travel Foreman.

BATGIRL #9
By Gail Simone & Ardian Syaf.

NIGHTWING #9
By Kyle Higgins & Eddy Barrows.

www.dccomics.com

DC COMICS™

New DCE Websites For You!

In case you haven't heard the buzz, DC Entertainment has launched all-new interactive websites for DC Comics, Vertigo and MAD Magazine and they are awesome! You don't have to take our word for it though, as you can check 'em out for yourself at DCComics.com, VertigoComics.com and MADMagazine.com. So what do these new sites feature? I'm glad you asked. Check it out:

Integrated social media – Social media features include comments powered by Facebook integrated throughout the site, and real-time Twitter feeds from fans and comic talent. Additionally, the new "Fans" section lists upcoming events and links to all DC Entertainment social media pages and feeds, making it easy for fans to follow, like, see trending topics and join the conversation.

Breaking news and exclusive content – The sites will strive to be a document of record by regularly featuring exclusive content, focused on comics and beyond. And blogs for DC Comics, Vertigo and MAD will continue on the new sites, offering breaking news and updated information.

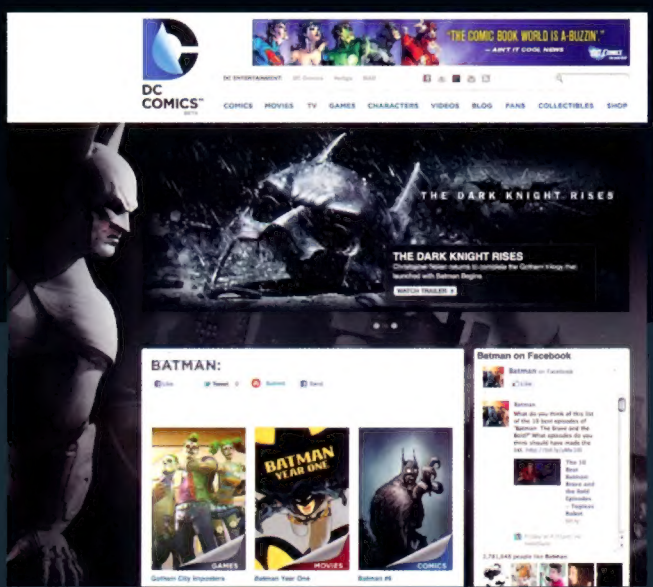
In-depth character experiences – The "Characters" section offers a relational database giving fans extensive search options to gather information and research comics featuring their favorite characters and talent. Franchise pages have been created for iconic characters such as Batman, Superman and Sandman, so fans can get the latest comics, movies, TV, games and merchandise information in one convenient location.

One-stop shopping – The new sites include many shopping options for comic books (both in print and digital), as well as real-time buying options for fans to easily purchase movies, TV shows and games based on their favorite characters, or find out where to buy offline.

We are extremely proud of these websites, and the coolest thing is that they will continually be evolving to give you the best possible experience. So finish reading your comics and hop on over to DCComics.com, VertigoComics.com and MADMagazine.com to find out what's coming next!

See you online!

— Ian Sattler, DC Entertainment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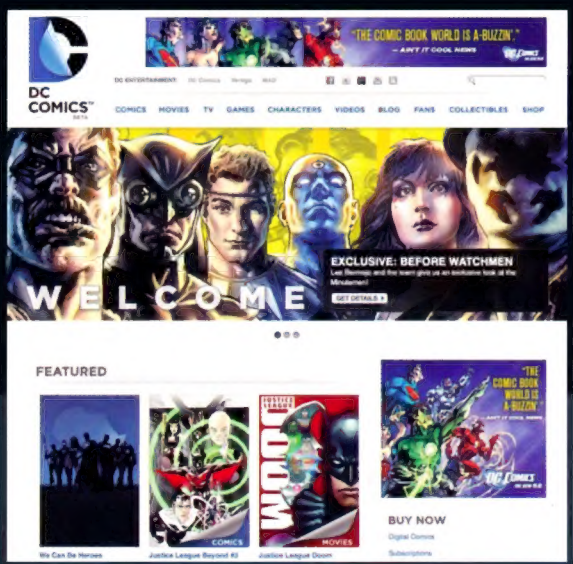

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